

YOSEMITE NEWS

On The Web

The official Yosemite NPS home page (www.nps.gov/yose/) contains the latest park information.



Camping reservations can now be made online from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time (reservations.nps.gov).



The Yosemite Association's Yosemite Online (yosemite.org) features visitor information, a bookstore, a listing of outdoor classes, membership news, the daily weather forecast, a live-camera view of Half Dome and Yosemite Valley, and even a 3-D QuickTime video of Yosemite Valley.



The Yosemite Fund home page (www.yosemitfund.org) frequently has project updates with photographs online. The site currently features photos of the restoration work at Glacier Point. Other features include "Wild Card," "Waterfalls," and "Tips For Travelers," along with current donation information.



The Yosemite Concession Services Page (www.yosemitpark.com) features 200 pages of information on lodging, shopping, dining, and park activities with links to other Yosemite-related web sites. It also includes a live-camera view of Half Dome, online gift shop, and off-season lodging reservations.



The Ansel Adams Gallery site (www.anseladams.com) features fine art photography, gifts, calendar of events, and photos of Yosemite and Mono Lake.



YATI, Yosemite Area Traveller Information (www.yosemite.com), web site contains the latest information on an 11,000-square-mile area containing and surrounding Yosemite. Includes lodging information, travel advisories, and road and weather conditions.



The Yosemite Institute's home page (www.yni.org) describes its residential, in-park field-science program for elementary, middle, and high school students, and post-visit challenge units.

HELP SUPPORT YOUR 379 NATIONAL PARK AREAS!

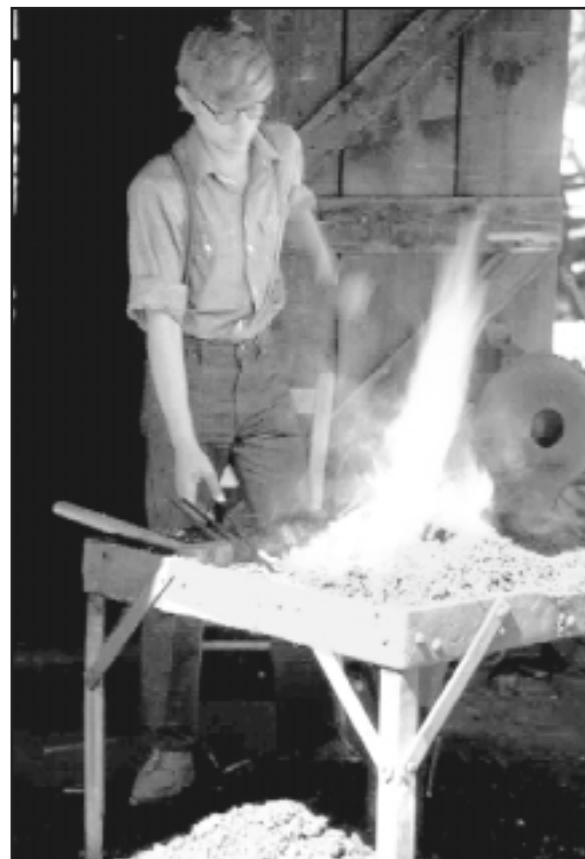
In April, the National Park Service introduced the new National Parks Pass. This \$50 pass allows unlimited entry for twelve full months to all National Park Service (NPS) sites which charge entrance fees. The Golden Eagle Pass, which provides admission to some Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish & Wildlife fee areas as well as NPS sites, has increased in price to \$65 this year. The National Parks Pass may be upgraded to a Golden Eagle Pass at any time during the year for an additional \$15. Both passes admit the purchaser and any accompanying passengers in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle. Use of the passes may not be transferred to another person.

The sale of the National Parks Pass will contribute significantly to the financial health of the 379 areas in the National Park System. Seventy percent of the proceeds of the sale of this pass will benefit the park where the pass is sold. The remaining 30% of the proceeds will be credited to a special fund that will benefit ALL parks, especially those that do not charge entrance fees. These proceeds may be spent only for high priority health and safety, visitor service and resource management projects in the parks.

The National Parks Pass is an attractive and durable card depicting a beautiful image of one of your National Park Service areas. Each year the pass will feature a different park. Included in the purchase price is a USA map featuring the entire National Park System and other benefits. They are available to any visitor at Yosemite entrance stations, other national parks, online at www.nationalparks.org or by calling 888/GOPARKS.



365 DAYS
379 WAYS
TO EXPERIENCE
YOUR AMERICA



Wednesday through Sunday afternoons you might find a "pioneer" demonstrating a nearly forgotten art, such as blacksmithing, at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona.
Photo by G. Born

CLASSROOMS IN THE PARK

Yosemite National Park is the ideal outdoor classroom for exploring natural and cultural history topics. Yosemite's *Parks As Classrooms* program coordinates with the California State Curriculum Frameworks for upper elementary grades and offers ranger-led field trips for classes visiting the park. Each program lasts 1 to 2 hours. Park entrance fees are waived for the educational visit.

These programs emphasize the National Park Service message of protection and preservation of natural and cultural

resources. Fall visits feature a Miwok Indian theme. Reservations can be made beginning July 1. Class size is limited to 35 students.

For further information regarding this and other National Park Service education programs, contact the Education Office at 209/375-9505, or visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose/teach.htm. For a fee waiver application, call 209/379-1876.



Living history volunteers bring pioneers to life! *Photo by James Shull*

YARTS OFFERS VISITORS MORE OPTIONS

Yosemite visitors can now take a break from driving by riding transit into the park! The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) began optional bus service in May 2000. Full summer service runs through September 17, 2000 and will resume during the summer of 2001. The new voluntary service provides scheduled

round-trip bus service to Yosemite National Park from outlying communities including Merced, Mariposa, and Mammoth Lakes. Buses operate at hours most convenient to park visitors and provide direct service to the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and the Yosemite Valley shuttle bus system. YARTS provides riders with the highest quality service for the lowest possible cost.

For schedule, route, and fare information visit the YARTS web site at www.yosemite.com/yarts or call toll free 877/98-YARTS (877/989-2787).



A YOSEMITE SEMINAR EXPERIENCE

Like any visitor, I came to Yosemite to see its famous landmarks, but I yearned for a more in-depth look at this incredible park. A friend told me that the Yosemite Association, an educational non-profit organization, offered a wide variety of outdoor seminars for visitors. I signed up for an August class in Tuolumne Meadows (8,600 feet elevation)—*Mountain Wildflowers for the Relaxed Botanist*.

Mike Ross, our seminar instructor, led us on a leisurely hike to find flowers and plants. I was impressed with his knowledge of the area, and I appreciated his sense of humor and gentle, friendly teaching style. By 5:00 p.m. we walked back to our campsites, cooked dinner together, and later gathered for a sunset walk to Pothole Dome at the west end of Tuolumne Meadows. What a fantastic day...and we still had four more to go!

With each day I began to recognize families of plants and even blurted out a few scientific names. I highly recommend this seminar—or any that Yosemite Association offers—to visitors wanting a fun outdoor hiking and learning experience. I'll never forget this week and can hardly wait until next year's catalog of classes is mailed so I can again schedule a learning vacation!

See the Yosemite Field Seminars 2000 catalog of seminars at www.yosemite.org or call 209/379-2321 and YA will mail you a catalog. There are two-day and up to eight-day programs for adults and families offered February through October.

